

Message Text

MRN: 1974MEXICO007670 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE
ADP000
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PAGE 01 MEXICO 07670 02 OF 02 100210Z

67
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 SY-04 AID-20 USSS-00 NIC-01 DRC-01

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P 092359Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3715

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 7670

11. COMMENT:

A) THE EMBASSY FINDS ITSELF IN THE UNACCUSTOMED POSITION OF AGREEING WITH EXCELSIOR - THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST BIZARRE POLITICAL EVENTS IN RECENT MEXICAN HISTORY. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE KIDNAPPING WAS AUTHENTIC, THAT THE GOM FROM THE OUTSET HAD A COMMUNIQUE WITH DEMANDS, AND THAT WITH ITS POWER OVER THE NEWS MEDIA IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO NEGOTIATE ZUNO'S RELEASE WITHOUT ANYONE PUBLICLY CHALLENGING ITS VERSION OF THIS SUCCESSION OF EVENTS.

B) ANDRES ZUNO'S AD (PARA. 6 ABOVE) WE SEE AS AN ACT DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ANY ANSWER TO EXCELSIOR'S QUESTION. HOWEVER WEAK THAT RATIONALE MAY APPEAR TO CRITICALLY MINDED MEXICANS, WE CAN THINK OF NO OTHER THE GOVERNMENT CAN OFFER THAN THAT THE KIDNAPPERS REALIZED THEY HAD GRABBED THE WRONG MAN AND REPENTED OF THEIR ERROR. ZUNO'S INTERVIEW, (WHICH WE BELIEVE IS THE REACTION OF A VIRTUALLY SENILE OLD MAN RESCUED FROM THE BOREDOM OF AN OCTAGENERIAN EXISTENCE TO UNDERGO AN EXPERIENCE WHICH APPARENTLY WAS FOR HIM THE MOST FUN IN AGES), WILL FIT IN NICELY WITH THIS ANTICIPATED INTERPRETATION.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 07670 02 OF 02 100210Z

C) SUPPORTING OUR VIEW IS A REPORT FROM AN UNTESTED SOURCE THAT THE GOM DID PAY A DOLLARS 1.6 MILLION RANSOM, THUS, THE PHOTOGRAPH PROBABLY WAS KIDNAPPERS' COMPLIANCE WITH GOM DEMAND FOR PROOF THAT HE WAS WELL AND WE SURMISE THE UNPUBLISHED PORTIONS OF SEPT 6'S WRITTEN COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING PAYMENT OF RANSOM. AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER REPORTED DEMANDS FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WAS MET. WE SUSPECT NOT.

D) FINALLY, WE CAN ONLY CONJECTURE AT THIS POINT ABOUT A POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ZUNO'S RELEASE AND SENATOR FIGUEROA'S LIBERATION. THAT SUBJECT WE ARE TREATING SEPARATELY BUT EVEN THE PRESS HAS WONDERED AT WHAT APPEARS TO BE A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE. NO ONE WILL WONDER TOO LOUDLY, HOWEVER, AND IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN THE OFFICIAL VIEW OF THESE TWO EVENTS WILL GO UNCHALLENGED IN ANY DIRECT OR SERIOUS WAY.
BRANDIN

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Message Attributes

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